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detail, more chance to check up legislative ideals by the dry observations of chroniclers. In one particular, however, the work falls short of its predecessor; whereas Gee and Hardy usually printed their pieces intact, Dr. Kidd leaves out passages very freely; for instance, the dots that signify omissions perforate the thirty-eighth page no less than thirty-four times. How can one draw much from sources, if one must use a sieve? It goes without saying, moreover, that he who reprints sources should find the best texts, no easy matter when the bibliographical tools are as poor as they still are for the sixteenth century. One readily pardons the printing of no. 72 from the abstract in the *Calendar of State Papers Spanish*, and of no. 112 from an abstract by Ranke; but one feels systematic methodical doubt when offered early Latin translations of German originals, such as Seckendorf's version of Melancthon's *Instructions for the Visitors* (no. 96). It is a further shock to find Luther quoted on the basis of Walch (1740-1752), not from the monumental Weimar edition, which has been in process of publication these thirty years; but this lapse may perhaps be explained by the curious fact that at least up to a couple of years ago the Weimar edition was not accessible in any of the libraries of Oxford. The appearance of Dr. Kidd's book is perhaps the sign of the dawning of a new day in England, and serious students of the Reformation will be grateful to its compiler for his laborious and valuable researches.

WILLIAM WALKER ROCKWELL.

A Calendar of the Court Minutes, etc., of the East India Company, 1644-1649. By ETHEL BRUCE SAINSBURY, with an Introduction and Notes by WILLIAM FOSTER. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1912. Pp. xxviii, 424.)

As in previous volumes of this series, already reviewed in this journal, the student finds in this collection careful preparation of the documents, a useful index, and an excellent preface. The material is drawn chiefly from the Court Books of the East India Company, though we find occasional entries from the State Papers Domestic, and from the Home Miscellaneous and the East Indies series of the Public Record Office. The last is now cited as Colonial Office 77. Naturally this volume is important for more than the direct and intimate history of the company, of which, however, only a few phases can be noted.

The situation in the East is not particularly interesting; but the range and increasing variety of the problems involved are suggested in the company's statement of February 8, 1647, that "the trade to the East Indies is settled in the dominions of fourteen sovereign Princes, wherein twenty-three factories are maintained and ninety-two English factors, of all conditions employed. Twenty ships serve these factories, the greater number going from port to port to procure lading for vessels to be dispeeded at the proper season" (p. 188). While "scarcity of

moneyes" existed in 1643 and 1644, in 1648, when prospects had brightened for a short time, nearly £200,000 had been promptly subscribed for a further "general voyage" and the House of Commons had voted its approval of members "subscribing for the better advancement of the Company's trade" (p. 222). Furthermore other ventures, whether under the company by special agreement or as interlopers, talked largely and frequently of even heavier investment. England was not poor when monarchy was ending; but capital was not the only question.

The matter of chartered rights was fundamental. Already the personal government of Charles I. had left its legacy of peril in Courteen's Association. Now the question was complicated by the existence of changing, if pious parliamentary committees to whom optimistic adventurers and serious merchants paid suit. The long delays incident to the excitement of war and religious controversy, the hesitations of the House of Lords as to monopoly, and active and alarming plans of Cromwell's friend, Maurice Thomson, all combined to disturb the company and to endanger its rights. At last with the abolition of the House of Lords the dispute as to the company's powers came before the Council of State, which in turn referred the question to Parliament, thus finally tending to the establishment by that body of a Board of Trade. But shortly Parliament acted independently in authorizing the East India Company to proceed with its trade. This, however, carries us into 1650 after nearly six years of doubt and uncertainty.

From all this emerges at least one point interesting to students of American history. The chief of the new organizers of rival schemes had been Maurice Thomson, of whom later volumes in this series will give further information. And Thomson's interest in imperial matters had first been largely bred by his American experience in Virginian and West Indian trade. He then brought to his Asiatic ventures a conception as to commerce and plantation which struck at the root of the company's jealous control. For in the Assada project he wished to inaugurate real emigration by Englishmen and colonization under his company, to reorganize trade on the coasts of Africa, under the same charter to proceed to any part of the coast of America, and lastly to "obtaine a settled, fortified habitation under our owne [English] government upon the coast of India" (p. 371). This and kindred invasions the East India Company stoutly resisted, though with the Assada merchants they made a compromise as to finance and the chance to trade in India.

On the whole, however, the corporation was fortunate not to have endured heavier losses. For if we may believe their mournful language of 1643 "all trade and commerce in this kingdome is almost fallen to the ground through our owne unhappie divisions at home unto which the Lord in mercie put a good end".

ALFRED L. P. DENNIS.